

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00946 150948Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 946

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

FROM MEPC DEL

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST MISCELLANY

SUMMARY: IN RECENT TALKS WITH ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN REPS AND UNDER SECRETARY UR*UHART OF UN, DELOFF HAS DETECTED NO CONCERN OVER RESUMPTION OF PEACE TALKS HERE OR USG BEHIND-SCENES EFFORTS STIMULATE ISRAELI-SYRIAN AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT. CURRENT ARAB MIMISUMMIT IN ALGIERS CONSIDERED TO BE VERY IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING FUTURE TRENDS. END SUMMARY.

1. DELOFF TALKED WITH EGYPTIAN AMB. EL ERIAN FEB 13. HE WAS RELAXED OVER ABSENCE ACTIVITY HERE, HOPEFUL THAT USG EFFORTS WITH SYRIA AND ISRAEL WOULD PRODUCE RESULTS, AND SAID THAT SOV AMB. VINOGRADOV (WHOM HE HAD JUST SEEN) WAS NOT RPT NOT PRESSING FOR MOVEMENT HERE AND APPEARED QUITE RELAXED. HE WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT ATTITUDE VINOGRADOV, WHICH HE THOUGHT PROBABLY RESULTED FROM RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN GROYMKO AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. EL ERIAN HOPED THAT MINI-SUMMIT AT
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00946 150948Z

ALGIERS WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT WHICH SARG PRESIDENT ASSAD NEEDS

TO MOVE FORWARD ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS GENERATING MORE VISIBLE SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIANS IN THEIR EFFORTS CONTINUE ADHERE TO MODERATE POLICY AND PROMOTE MODERATION AMONG ARABS. EGYPT, HE FELT, CARRYING TOO MUCH OF VISIBLE LOAD OF MODERATING EFFORTS ALL BY ITSELF.

2. EL ERIAN WAS INTERESTED IN PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND SYMPATHETIC TO GOE-PROPOSED IDEA OF GOVT IN EXILE. HOWEVER, HE ALSO AWARE OF MANY PROBLEMS WHICH HAD TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE THERE COULD BE ANY REAL FORWARD MOVEMENT ON PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT IT BETTER NOT TO TRY AND CROSS THIS VERY TRICKY BRIDGE UNTIL ONE COULD NO LONGER AVOID IT.

3. IN TALK SAME DAY WITH ISRAELI REP YARDEN (WHO JUST BACK FROM TEL AVIV), DELOFF FOUND HIM CONCERNED OVER RECENT SYRIAN SHELLING OF CIVILIAN TARGETS AND ALSO OVER "UNFORTUNATE TIMING" OF ISRAELI REMARKS ABOUT FUTURE OF GOLAN HEIGHTS. HE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE USG EFFORTS BRING ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

4. IN REFERENCE TO GROMYKO VISIT TO WASHINGTON, YARDEN HOPED THAT IF USG SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING TALKS ON DISENGAGEMENT STARTED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA, THESE TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE AT DEMARCATION LINE BORDER UNDER AUSPICES UN (PERHAPS UNTSO WHICH ALREADY THERE) RATHER THAN COMING TO GENEVA. AT GENEVA THERE WOULD BE PROBLEM WITH SOV'S DESIRING PARTICIPATE, AND EXPERIENCE HAD ALSO SHOWN IT WAS HARDER FOR PARTIES TO KEEP OUT EXTRANE-
OUS POLITICAL MATTERS WHICH MADE AGREEMENT ON PRACTICAL MATTERS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO REACH. YARDEN OFFERED PERSONAL OPINION THAT, IN LIGHT OF ISRAELI INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, QUESTION OF JORDAN SHOULD BE POSTPONED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. HE HOPED ALGIERS MINI-SUMMIT WOULD PRODUCE SOMETHING POSITIVE AND UNBLOCK TALKS WITH SYRIANS.

5. IN CONVERSATION FEB 14 WITH UNDER SECRETARY URQUHART AND UNEF COMMANDER SIILASVOU, DELOFF WAS TOLD THAT WALDHEIM-SIILASVOU TALKS HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON UNEF OPERATIONS AND PROBLEMS (E.G. WHETHER OR NOT GHANA WILL SEND ITS CONTINGENT, WHETHER OR NOT TO ACCEPT KENYAN DEMAND THAT UN ANTE UP CASH TO BUY NEW EQUIPMENT FOR KENYAN ARMY TO REPLACE THAT TAKEN BY KENYAN UNIT TO MIDDLE EAST, WHETHER OR NOT TO KEEP UNEF AT SAME SIZE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 00946 150948Z

WHEN TIME COMES TO RENEW MANDATE, FINANCING, ETC.). WALDHEIM AND SIILVASVOU APPEAR TO HAVE MUCH CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER'S VIEWS AND PROBLEMS AFTER THIS EXCHANGE.

6. URQUHART EXPRESSED OPINION THAT WHILE UNEF RUNNING RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY FOR PRESENT, PROBLEMS MAY EMERGE IN TIME, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA WHEN ITME COMES TO RENEW MANDATE. HE FEARED THAT SOV'S AND PERHAPS OTHERS MIGHT

USE THREAT OF NON-RENEWAL OF MANDATE TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL (AND USG) TO REACH DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA. (STATE 29905 RECEIVED SUBSEQUENTLY). URQUHART, LIKE EL ERIAN AND YARDEN, HOPED ALGIERS MINI-SUMMIT SHOULD ENABLE EARLY PROGRESS BE MADE ON ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT AND OTHER PROBLEMS. HE ALSO FAVORED IDEA OF HOLDING ANY ISRAELI-SYRIAN TALKS ON DISENGAGEMENT AT DEMARCATION LINE RATHER THAN GENEVA, IF THIS POSSIBLE IN CONTEXT US-USSR RELATIONSHIP ON MIDDLE EAST.

7. URQUHART AND SIILASVOU BOTH VERY PLEASED AT FAVORABLE EVOLUTION OF ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARD UNITED NATIONS, OR AT LEAST UNEF, OVER PAST FEW WEEKS. THEY SAID FAVORABLE ATTITUDE VERY CLEAR AT ALL LEVELS: POLITICAL, MILITARY (GENERALS AND ORDINARY SOLDIERS), AND MAN-IN-STREET. URQUHART MADE WRY REMARK ABOUT FINNISH PRESS REPORT THAT ISRAELI UN AMB. TEKOAH HAD EVEN MADE RECENT SPEECH IN ISRAEL IN WHICH HE MADE FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO PAST EFFORTS OF AMB. JARRING.

8. COMMENT. IN CONVERSATIONS REPORTED ABOVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS UNDERSTOOD TO BE ON PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL BASIS RATHER THAN PRESENTATION OF OFFICIAL POSITIONS. TRUST ADDRESSES WILL RESPECT CONFIDENCES. DALE

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